

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A ball-point pen having a writing tip at a top end of which a writing ball is rotatably supported, an ink storage tube inside of which ink is stored, and a joint member for connecting said writing tip and said ink storage tube and supplying the ink in the ink storage tube to said writing tip side, characterized in that a cover member is further provided which ~~can be~~ is fitted and mounted along a perimeter surface of said joint member, and said cover member is arranged in dimensions so as not to approach within 0.2 mm of said writing tip when an end of said cover member is positioned so as to be in contact with the perimeter surface of said joint member and an axis of said cover member and an axis of said joint member are aligned ~~when said cover member is fitted along the perimeter surface of the joint member to which the writing tip is mounted.~~

2. (Currently Amended): A ball-point pen having a writing tip at a top end of which a writing ball is rotatably supported, an ink storage tube inside of which ink is stored, and a joint member for connecting said writing tip and said ink storage tube and supplying the ink in the ink storage tube to said writing tip side, characterized in that a cover member is further provided which ~~can be~~ is fitted and mounted along the inside of a mounting hole formed at said joint member, and said cover member is arranged in dimensions so as not to approach within 0.2 mm of said writing tip when an end of said cover member is positioned so as to be in contact with an

inner periphery of the mounting hole and an axis of said cover member and an axis of said joint member are aligned ~~when said cover member is fitted along the inside of the mounting hole of the joint member to which the writing tip is mounted.~~

3. (Original): The ball-point pen as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said cover member is constituted by a metal material.

4. (Original): The ball-point pen as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said writing tip is formed of a pipe-like tip.

5. (Previously Presented): The ball-point pen as claimed in claim 1, characterized by being arranged in dimensions that said cover member does not approach within 0.2 mm of said writing tip in a relative movement range of the cover member after starting to fit said cover member along the perimeter surface of said joint member until completion of mounting.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended): The ball-point pen as claimed in claim 1, characterized by being arranged that said cover member is formed into a cylindrical shape, a flange bent outward[[s]] is formed at one end of said cylindrical portion, so that said flange may come into contact with an end face of the joint member.